

# Commander's Call Topics



Dec. 11, 2009

## CCT Holiday Schedule:

No CCT will be published Dec. 25, 2009, and Jan. 1, 2010. The CCT will resume Jan. 8, 2010.

## FROM AIR FORCE SENIOR LEADERS

*"The primary enduring contribution of the Air Force is the ability to establish and maintain freedom of action in the air for U.S. and coalition forces, permitting them to operate with minimum risk of hostile air attack. The increased speed, range, and flexibility that is achieved by our ability to operate in the air and in space also allow us to rapidly project power in response to threats and crises, wherever they may emerge in the world."*

- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, from a recent [speech](#) at the Aerospace and Defense Finance Conference

## ► CURRENT ISSUES

### [New Air Force plan targets energy](#)

Air Force officials released its new energy plan to serve as the framework for communicating Air Force energy goals and further expands a culture shift *"where Airmen make energy a consideration in everything we do."*

### [Defense Department focuses on F-35 costs, fair tanker competition](#)

Pentagon officials are working to halt spiraling costs in the F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter aircraft program while ensuring competition for a new refueling tanker remains fair to all contenders.

## ► PERSONNEL ISSUES

### [Air Force officials reinforce tattoo, body alteration policy](#)

Air Force senior leaders have taken steps to ensure Air Force dress and personal appearance standards are applied consistently across the service. Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance, outlines the current provisions and prohibitions to include standards governing piercings and body alterations.

### [Twitter accounts feed job opportunities, news to customers](#)

On [www.twitter.com/AFCareers](http://www.twitter.com/AFCareers), people can look for links to civilian job announcements, keep up-to-date with *Wounded Warrior Care* and find out what's new for retirees. On [www.twitter.com/USAF\\_Services](http://www.twitter.com/USAF_Services), learn about special events, read up on the latest *Year of the Air Force Family* celebrations and follow the transition of Air Force Crossroads to <https://www.usafservices.com/home.aspx>.

### [VA officials to survey veteran households](#)

Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a national survey of veterans, active-duty servicemembers, activated National Guard and Reserve members, and family members and survivors to learn if they are aware of VA services. VA researchers are mailing out survey "screeners" to more than 130,000 households to identify potential participants.

### [Nominations sought for 2010 American Legion service award](#)

Air Force Personnel Center officials are now accepting nominations for the 2010 American Legion Spirit of Service Award. Sponsored by the National Headquarters of the American Legion, it is presented annually to an enlisted member from each of the military branches for outstanding volunteer service performed off duty in the local community. For more information, visit AFPC's secure ["ASK" Web site](#) or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 or DSN 665-5000.

### **Thunderbirds announce 2010 schedule**

Officials from the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, "Thunderbirds," announced its 2010 airshow schedule. The team's 57th show season will include 65 shows in 27 states and Canada.

## **CIVILIAN**

### **Nominations open for 2010 DOD Employee with a Disability Award**

This Secretary of Defense award recognizes the contributions and achievements made by physically or mentally disabled federal employees within DOD. Nominees will be rated on their job performance, community service, and courage and initiative in overcoming disabilities during Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2009. Nomination packages are due to the Air Force Personnel Center via e-mail by May 14, 2010. For additional more information on this and other Air Force award programs, visit AFPC's secure ["Ask" Web site](#) or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102 or DSN 665-5000.

## **FAMILY, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **NORAD officials ready to track Santa's flight**

The NORAD Tracks Santa Web site, [www.noradsanta.org](http://www.noradsanta.org), is now live and features fun holiday games and activities that change daily. On Dec. 24, the Web site will stream videos, captured by NORAD "Santa Cams," from numerous cities along Santa's journey. This year, children and the young-at-heart are able to track Santa through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and TroopTube.mil. To find, type "@noradsanta" into the search engine.

### **Support improves for families with special needs**

Officials are working to boost the resources and support the Defense Department's Exceptional Family Member Program provides to military families with special needs. Military families with special needs are asked to enroll in the program so their requirements can be taken into consideration for future assignments.

### **2010 Call for the Arts: The Art of being a Military Child**

The Military Childhood Education Coalition is promoting the arts through their 2010 Call for the Arts: The Art of being a Military Child. Works of art submitted will be used in MCEC publications, conferences and other activities throughout 2010. Submissions from military-connected children, kindergarten through high school, can include artwork, writing (essays, poetry, and short stories), and film. All entries are due Feb. 26, 2010. For a complete set rules and forms, go to <http://www.militarychild.org/child-student/arts/>.

### **Task force finds improvement in sexual assault response**

The Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services has completed its assessment of the progress of DOD officials in improving response to the needs of sexual assault victims and turned its report over to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates for review.

## **FINANCES AND EDUCATION**

### **National Military Family Association officials accepting scholarship applications from military spouses**

The Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship program awards up to \$1,000 to military spouses to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school. Application deadline is Jan. 31, 2010. Apply online at <http://www.militaryfamily.org/scholarships>. Spouses of uniformed service members (active duty, National Guard and Reserve, retirees and survivors) of any branch or rank are eligible to apply.

## **RESOURCES**

### ***AF.mil***

<http://www.af.mil>

### ***Air Force Community***

<http://www.afcommunity.af.mil/>

### ***Air Force Highlights***

<http://www.afoutreach.af.mil/usafhighlights/index.asp>

**Military OneSource**

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

**Military HOMEFRONT**

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

**Year of the Air Force Family**

<http://www.af.mil/yoaff/index.asp>

[www.MyAirForceLife.com](http://www.MyAirForceLife.com)

**Air Force Personnel Center**

<http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

**Air Reserve Personnel Center**

<http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/>

**Department of Defense**

<http://www.defense.gov>

**Department of Defense News**

<http://www.defenselink.mil>

**TRICARE**

<http://www.tricare.mil>

**U.S. Government Web site**

<http://www.firstgov.gov/>

## **AIR FORCE HERITAGE TO HORIZONS**

### **This Week in Air Force History**

**Dec. 11, 1914** – An Army airplane received radio messages at a distance of 10 miles.

**Dec. 12, 1953** – Maj. Charles E. Yeager attained a speed of 1,650 mph — about twice the speed of sound — at Edwards AFB, Calif., in a Bell X-1A rocket ship launched from a B-29 bomber.

**Dec. 12, 1980** – After two and one-half years of study, the Community College of the Air Force at Maxwell AFB, Ala., is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association to award the Associate in Applied Science degree.

**Dec. 13-14, 1962** – The U.S. Air Force's Project Stargazer balloon, manned by Capt. Joseph A. Kittinger Jr., and William C. White, U.S. Navy civilian astronomer, reached an altitude of 82,000 feet in an 18.5-hour flight over southwestern New Mexico.

**Dec. 16, 1958** – The Pacific Missile Range began launching operations with the successful flight of a Thor missile, the first ballistic missile launched over the Pacific Ocean.

**Dec. 17, 1903** – Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first sustained, controlled and powered airplane flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

**Dec. 17, 1963** – The new C-141A Starlifter transport flew for the first time at Dobbins AFB, Ga. Capable of crossing any ocean nonstop at more than 500 mph, the Starlifter can transport 154 people.

**Dec. 17, 1969** – The U.S. Air Force concluded the UFO reporting and investigating project designated “Blue Book.”

**Dec. 17, 1993** – The first B-2 Spirit bomber arrived at Whiteman AFB, Mo.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit the Air Force Link heritage section at <http://www.af.mil/information/heritage>.

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